Software Ltd. and Amar Raja Battery Ltd. has been ordered. The enquiries are in progress. Further action will be taken on receipt of inspection reports.

Status of pending High Court cases on internet

2966. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that status of pending High Court cases is now available on the internet;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases in various High Courts of the country as on 31st July, 2001;

(c) whether there are large number of vacancies of Judges in the various High Courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to fill up the vacancies in order to dispose of the cases promptly?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

Presently, only the status of pending cases in Delhi High Court is available on the internet. For rest of the High Courts, the system study by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) is being done.

(b) The available information is given in the Statement I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Out of a total of 647 sanctioned posts of Judges in various High Courts, 177 posts were vacant as on 10.8.2001. Statement II giving details of the vacancy position in various High Courts is enclosed.

The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Statement I

Pending cases in various High Courts

Sl. No.	High Court	Number of pending cases	As on
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	852139	12/2000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	162726	12/2000
3.	Bombay	294193	9/2000
4.	Calcutta	313172	6/2000
5.	Delhi	178186	12/1999
6.	Gauhati	39049	6/1999
7.	Gujarat	141498	3/2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15065	12/2000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	36794	9/2000
10.	Karnataka	83728	9/2000
11.	Kerala	340711	12/2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	107680	9/2000
13.	Madras	357872	6/2000
14.	Orissa	117593	9/2000
15.	Patna	73127	12/2000
16.	Punjab & Haryana	226394	9/2000
17.	Rajasthan	132306	12/2000
18.	Sikkim	153	12/2000
	TOTAL:	3472386	

Statement II

Vacancy position in various High Courts

S.No.	High Court	Approved Strength	Actual Strength	Vacancies
1.	Allahabad	95	50	45
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	26	13
3.	Bombay	60	52	08
4.	Calcutta	50	38	12
5.	Chhattisgarh	06	03	03
6.	Delhi	33	32	01
7.	Gauhati	19	12	07
8.	Gujarat	42	34	08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	08	07	01

S.No.	High Court	Approved Strength	Actual Strength	Vacancies
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	10	04
11.	Jharkhand	12	05	07
12.	Karnataka	40	34	06
13.	Kerala	29	18	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	21	08
15.	Madras	42	36	06
16.	Orissa	16	14	02
17.	Patna	31	21	10
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	30	10
19.	Rajasthan	32	22	10
20.	Sikkim	03	02	01
21.	Uttaranchal	07	03	04
	TOTAL:	647	470	177

Scheme of legal aid to poor

2967. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for legal aid to poor is under implementation;

(b) if so, the objectives of the scheme and whether it has been able to achieve the desired objectives; and

(c) the performance of the scheme and measures taken by Government for making the scheme more effective, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, Legal Services Authorities have been constituted in States to achieve the on-going objectives of providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity. Progress and status of the schemes framed under the said Act are assessed from time to time. The Central Authority constituted under Section 3 of the said Act is taking steps to establish vibrant